AIR INTEGRATION

a. General. The air integration battlefield operating system demonstrated several strengths including the execution of fixed wing air assets into the division's scheme of maneuver. The majority of close air support (CAS) used at the division level was either XCAS or GCAS, and used, primarily, as a reactionary force. Areas that need review and training emphasis include:

b. Issue: The division warfighter exercise (WFX) did not receive support from Air Operations Center (AOC), Battlefield Coordination Detachment (BCD), Air Support Operations Center (ASOC), Air Support Operations Squadron, and Tactical Air Control Parties (TACPs) during the entire WFX. Also, the division was aware of no AF support prior to Warfighter STARTEX, but failed to establish backup procedures for executing air interdiction and CAS.

(1) Discussion. The higher command failed to provide TACPs for the division WFX. The division was placed at a severe disadvantage against WCOPFOR. The division lacked:

  1) Air Force/Army Command and Control
     a.   Theater Air Control System (TACS)
        1. AOC—The AOC is the COMAFFOR's means of turning the JFC's guidance into a component air operations plan. It allocates resources and tasks forces through Air Tasking Orders. (need to be fully manned to provide a realistic operation)
        2. ASOC—The ASOC is the primary control agency component of the TACS for the execution of close air support (CAS). The ASOC coordinates and directs CAS in support of Army operations. The ASOC processes Army requests for immediate CAS. The ASOC tasks on-call missions or diverts scheduled missions.
     b.   TACS/Army Air Ground System (AAGS) Terminal Control Agencies—Terminal control of CAS assets and is a key element in the CAS process for preventing fratricide.
        1. TACPs—The TACP mission is to advise and assist the ground commander in planning, requesting, and coordinating CAS.
        2. Air Liaison Officers—The ALO advises the commander on CAS employment and assists with planning and coordination.

             3. Enlisted Terminal Attack Controllers—Perform terminal control and assisting in liaison functions.
             4. AF Combat Controllers—Trained and certified to perform terminal control.
  2) Air Force/Army Communications Nets
     a.   Command and Control Net
     b.   Air Force Air Request Net
     c.   Air Control Net
     d.   Tactical Air Direction Net
     e.   Inflight Report Net
     f.   Guard Net
     g.   TACP Admin Net
     h.   Squadron Common Net
     i.   Communications Equipment
 3) Immediate Requests
 4) Final Attack Control
 5) Clearance to Drop/Fire
     a.   Positive Control
         1. Direct Control—It occurs when the terminal controller is able to observe and control the attack.
         2. Indirect Control—It is used when the terminal controller cannot observe the attack, but contact with someone who can.
     b.   Reasonable Assurance
 6) Battle Damage Assessment—The terminal controller provides attack flights with BDA of their attack as they egress.

    (2) Recommendation. All major WFX issues were caused by the absence of TACPs. It is a necessity to have TACPs integrated with the division's planning and execution during the WFX. TACPs will facilitate the total integration on air interdiction, CAS, and airlift and provide fidelity and connect Air Force Air Request Net from BN to AOC. It is also imperative to establish backup division procedures for planning and executing air interdiction and CAS if there is no AF support to the division. Reference: Joint Pub 3-09.3, Joint Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for Close Air Support.
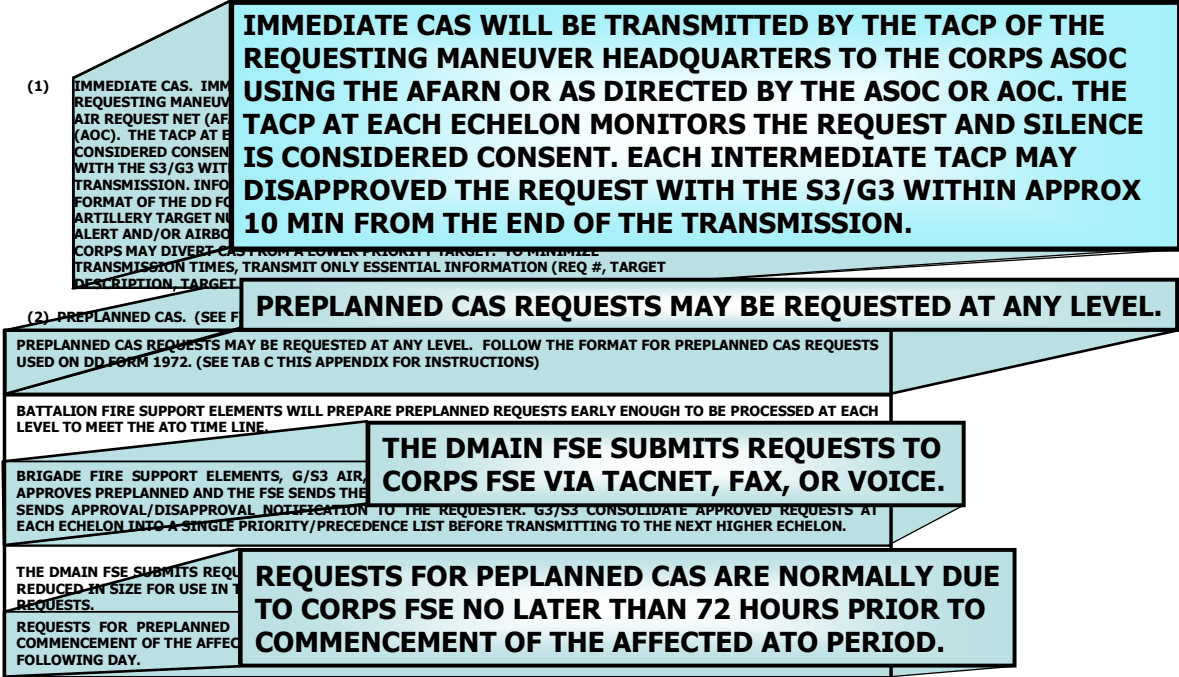
CAS PROCEDURES

(1) IMMEDIATE CAS. IMM
REQUESTING MANEUV
AIR REQUEST NET (AF
(AOC). THE TACP AT E
CONSIDERED CONSEN
WITH THE S3/G3 WIT
TRANSMISSION. INFO
FORMAT OF THE DD FO
ARTILLERY TARGET NU
ALERT AND/OR AIRBO
CORPS MAY DIVERT CAS FROM A LOWER PRIORITY TARGET. TO MINIMIZE
TRANSMISSION TIMES, TRANSMIT ONLY ESSENTIAL INFORMATION (REQ #, TARGET
DESCRIPTION, TARGET

IMMEDIATE CAS WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY THE TACP OF THE REQUESTING MANEUVER HEADQUARTERS TO THE CORPS ASOC USING THE AFARN OR AS DIRECTED BY THE ASOC OR AOC. THE TACP AT EACH ECHELON MONITORS THE REQUEST AND SILENCE IS CONSIDERED CONSENT. EACH INTERMEDIATE TACP MAY DISAPPROVED THE REQUEST WITH THE S3/G3 WITHIN APPROX 10 MIN FROM THE END OF THE TRANSMISSION.

(2) PREPLANNED CAS. (SEE F

PREPLANNED CAS REQUESTS MAY BE REQUESTED AT ANY LEVEL.

PREPLANNED CAS REQUESTS MAY BE REQUESTED AT ANY LEVEL. FOLLOW THE FORMAT FOR PREPLANNED CAS REQUESTS USED ON DD FORM 1972. (SEE TAB C THIS APPENDIX FOR INSTRUCTIONS)

BATTALION FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENTS WILL PREPARE PREPLANNED REQUESTS EARLY ENOUGH TO BE PROCESSED AT EACH LEVEL TO MEET THE ATO TIME LINE.

THE DMAIN FSE SUBMITS REQUESTS TO CORPS FSE VIA TACNET, FAX, OR VOICE.

BRIGADE FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENTS, G/S3 AIR,
APPROVES PREPLANNED AND THE FSE SENDS THE
SENDS APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL NOTIFICATION TO THE REQUESTER. G3/S3 CONSOLIDATE APPROVED REQUESTS AT
EACH ECHELON INTO A SINGLE PRIORITY/PRECEDENCE LIST BEFORE TRANSMITTING TO THE NEXT HIGHER ECHELON.

THE DMAIN FSE SUBMITS REQU
REDUCED IN SIZE FOR USE IN
REQUESTS.

REQUESTS FOR PREPLANNED
COMMENCEMENT OF THE AFFEC
FOLLOWING DAY.

REQUESTS FOR PEPLANNED CAS ARE NORMALLY DUE TO CORPS FSE NO LATER THAN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF THE AFFECTED ATO PERIOD.

FIGURE H-3: PRE-PLANNED CAS PROCEDURES

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CAS PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

1. GROUND COMMANDER'S INTENT/MISSION OBJECTIVES
2. PREPARE MAPS (COORDINATE WITH S-2 AND S-3)
3. REVIEW ACO, ATO, SPINS, ROE, COMMUNICATIONS PLAN
4. WEATHER
5. ASOC COORDINATION
6. PREPARE AREA OPERATION UPDATE
7. FIRE SUPPORT COORDINATION
8. FIGHTER HOLDING PLAN
9. ROTARY AVIATION COORDINATION
10. TARGET AREA OPERATIONS
11. PASS BDA

J-FIRE MULTISERVICE TACTICS, TECHNIQUES, AND PROCEDURES

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